

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

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R 271015Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0535

IN RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0232

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS BORDEAUX 0145

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION IN SOUTHWEST FRANCE TO CHANGE IN
GOVERNMENT.

1. SUMMARY. THE MAJOR REACTIONS IN THE LOCAL PRESS ARE AS
FOLLOW:

A) CHIRAC S RESIGNATION FOLLOWS A DEEP CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PRIME MINISTER AND, IS THE
CONSEQUENCE OF A UNIQUE STRUCTURAL PROBLEM IN THE HISTORY OF
THE FIFTH REPUBLIC WHERE THE PRESIDENT IS NOT FROM THE RANKS
OF THE UDR, B) GISCARD IS ON HIS WAY TO CONSOLIDATE HIS
PRESIDENTIAL REGIME AND MAKE THE ACTUAL TRANSITION FROM
GAULLISM TO GISCARDISM, AND C) ALTHOUGH THE UDR WILL PROBABLY
NOT BECOME THE SYSTEMATIC ADVERSARY OF THE PRESIDENT, THERE
IS A CRISIS WITHIN THE FRENCH CENTER AND RIGHT WHICH THE NEW
PRIME MINISTER, DESPITE HIS MERITS, MAY NOT BE ABLE TO
RESOLVE. END SUMMARY.

2. PIERRE YSMAL, EDITORIALIST IN MAJOR REGIONAL DAILY SUD-OUEST
(MODERATE) WRITES: FRANCE HAS WITNESSED A VERY DEEP CRISIS OF
CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE CHIEF OF THE STATE AND THE HEAD OF THE
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GOVERNMENT. CHIRAC WAS WALKING ON A MINE FIELD. HE HAD TO

KEEP IN MIND THAT, UNDER CHARLES DE GAULLE, AND GEORGES POMPIDOU, PRIME MINISTERS HAD TO FOLLOW WITHOUT FAIL THE ORIENTATION LAID DOWN BY THE ELYSEE. THERE WAS -THEN- POLITICAL HARMONY BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PREMIER. A CHANGE OCCURED IN THESE RELATIONSHIPS IN MAY 1974 WITH THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT COMING FROM THE RANKS OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAINS. THE PRESENT CRISIS HAS ENDED WITH CHIRAC S RESIGNATION .. BUT FOR HOW LONG ? NOBODY KNOWS HOW MANY DEPUTIES WILL BE SEDUCED BY THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE NEW POLICY AND THE DESIGNATION OF SOME REFORMIST PERSONALITIES COULD LACK ANY MOBILIZING EFFECT ... YESTERDAY CONCLUDES YSMAL, WE RESUMED THE MOVE TOWARDS A PRESIDENTIAL REGIME, AND TOWARDS THE ABSOLUTE REJECTION OF PARTY PRESSURE UPON THE DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

3. IN AUGUST 27 S ISSUE OF SUD-OUEST, YSMAL WRITES: OLIVIER GUICHARD COULD PARTICIPATE IN BARRE S GOVERNMENT TO SHOW THAT THE GAULLISTS HAVE NO INTENTION TO BE SYSTEMATIC AND METHODIC ADVERSARIES OF THE CHIEF OF THE STATE... THE GAULLISTS WOULD THUS AGREE, ALTHOUGH RELUCTANTLY, TO LET ONE OF THEIR MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS, JOIN THE FIRST GOVERNMENT OF THE FIFTH REPUBLIC THAT WON T BE HEADED BY THE UDR... SINCE AUGUST 25, A PAGE IS TURNED, POLITICAL INFLUENCE IS SHIFTING. ONE NO LONGER PLACES HIS CAREER HOPES ON THE UDR ALONE. QUOTING BERTRAND DE MAIGRET, NATIONAL DELEGATE OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT, YSMAL RAISES A BASIC QUESTION: CHIRAC S MISSION WAS TO ORGANIZE THE TRANSITION FROM GAULLISM TO GISCARDISM. DID THIS TRANSITION FIND ITS CHAMPION IN RAYMOND BARRE ?

4. IN CHARENTE LIBRE (MODERATE) DAILY IN ANGOULEME, CHIEF EDITOR MAURICE HAMART CALLS TO MIND: FIRST GISCARD, SECOND BARRE, BUT STATES THAT BARRE WHO WAS DE GAULLE S FINANCIAL COUNSELOR HAS KEPT MANY FRIENDS AMONG GAULLISTS WHOSE SUPPORT HE COULD COUNT ON TO FULFILL WHAT MIGHT ONLY BE A TRANSITIONAL MANDATE TO RESTORE GROUND FOR A - POLITICAL - PREMIER AT THE TIME OF 1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS.

5. JACQUES DELMAS, IN LA DEPECHE DU MIDI, (RADICAL MAJOR DAILY IN TOULOUSE), QUOTES ALEXANDRE SANGUINETTI -FORMER UDR

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SECRETARY GENERAL AND FORMER DEPUTY OF THE HAUTE-GARONNE - THE BREAK IS MADE. THE FIFTH REPUBLIC IS DEAD, WE ENTERED THE SIXTH.

6. IN PAU IN THE PYRENEES ATLANTIQUES, LA REPUBLIQUE DES PYRENEES (MODERATE) , UNDER BANNER - GISCARDISM IS ON THE MOVE - STATES THAT CHIRAC, THE UDR LION, HAS BEEN SHOT TO DEATH BY THE ELYSIAN HUNTER. IS IT ALSO THE FINISHING BLOW

FOR THE UDR ? CHIRAC S DECISION REVEALS A CRISIS NOT ONLY
FOR THE REGIME BUT ALSO WITHIN THE RIGHT.DJEREJIAN

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